

# Minutes of a special meeting of **COUNCIL** on Wednesday 17 July 2019

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## **Council members present:**

Councillor Simmons (Lord Mayor)	Councillor Goddard (Sheriff)
Councillor Arshad	Councillor Azad
Councillor Bely-Summers	Councillor Chapman
Councillor Clarkson	Councillor Corais
Councillor Curran	Councillor Djafari-Marbini
Councillor Gant	Councillor Garden
Councillor Gotch	Councillor Harris
Councillor Hayes	Councillor Henwood
Councillor Hollingsworth	Councillor Howlett
Councillor Humberstone	Councillor Munkonge
Councillor Pressel	Councillor Rowley
Councillor Rush	Councillor Linda Smith
Councillor Tanner	Councillor Taylor
Councillor Upton	Councillor Wolff

## **Also in attendance:**

Honorary Alderwoman Gill Sanders

## **Apologies:**

Councillors Altaf-Khan, Aziz, Brown, Cook, Donnelly, Fry, Iley-Williamson, Kennedy, Lloyd-Shogbesan, Lygo, Malik, Simm, Tarver, Tidball and Turner sent apologies.

The film of the Council meeting is here: <https://youtu.be/rvesguQTUTM>

## **10. Welcome by the Lord Mayor**

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Simmons, welcomed guests to the meeting.

## **11. Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations.

## **12. Proposal of Motion**

The Lord Mayor proposed the motion that Council confer the Honorary Freedom of the City on Benny Wenda in recognition of his contributions to Oxford and to the West Papuan community in the city, and on the international stage including tireless campaigning from his Oxford headquarters.

## **13. Second and Support of Motion**

Councillor Howlett gave a speech seconding the proposal.

## **14. Council to Vote on Motion**

The motion having been proposed and seconded, the Lord Mayor put this to the vote.

With all councillors present voting for the motion and none voting against, the motion was agreed unanimously, thereby meeting the requirements of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 that *the resolution be passed by not less than two-thirds of the members voting thereon.*

**Council resolved, in accordance with Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, to confer the Honorary Freedom of the City of Oxford on Benny Wenda.**

## **15. Speeches**

Invited speakers Ambassador John Licht (Head of Vanuatu's permanent mission in Brussels), Anneliese Dodds MP, and George Monbiot (environmental and political writer) addressed Councillors and guests.

Councillor Djafari-Marbini read selected messages of congratulation from those unable to attend.

## **16. Presentation of Scroll and closing speech**

The Lord Mayor presented the Scroll of Admission to Benny Wenda.

Benny Wenda then gave an acceptance speech to Councillors and guests.

The Lord Mayor closed the meeting.

*Note: Councillor Hollingsworth arrived at the close of the meeting.*

**The meeting started at 5.00 pm and ended at 5.45 pm**

Chair .....

**Date: Monday 22 July 2019**